

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings have been amended by adding the labels "Prior Art" to each figure.

A replacement sheet of drawings is submitted herewith to replace the original sheet of drawings containing figures 1 and 2.

REMARKS AND TRAVERSAL

Amendments to the Drawings

Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to show that these figures relate to known vehicle structure. No new matter has been introduced to the replacement sheet of drawings.

Claim Amendments and Remarks

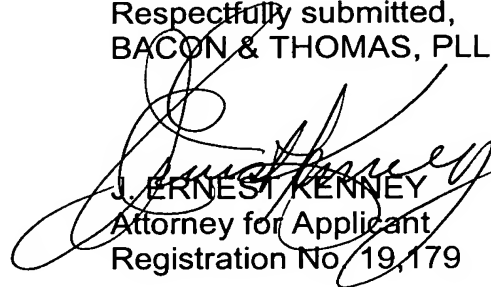
With regard to the examiner's indicated confusion with regard to the scope of claim 4, in the first place "box-like construction" recited in claim 2 (from which claim 4 depends) refers to the downwardly extending cage-like box construction shown at 20 in figure 3, not to the shape of the profile constituting the longitudinal runner 15. In addition, claim 4 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "I-profile" which was inadvertently omitted in the original claim language.

With the exception of claims 9 and 11, all claims currently presented are generic to all species described in the application. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement with regard to claims 9 and 11 which recite cross connections having a concave shape as shown in figure 14. It does not appear to be unduly burdensome for the examiner to consider a curve shape instead of straight shapes as shown in figure 13 and other figures of the drawings. Imposing on Applicant the requirement to admit that claim 14 is patentably indistinct from the embodiment of figure 13 is unreasonable and burdensome to Applicant when any search conducted by the examiner with regard to the claims directed to the elected species would necessarily encompass the shape of cross members included in figure 14.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the examiner to permit claims 9 and 11 to remain in this application for further consideration with the remaining claims that are generic to all species identified by the examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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